

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 586

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

HEALTH OF INDIAN RIVERS

586. DR. AMAR SINGH

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the health of many Indian rivers has taken a severe beating in recent decades owing to unchecked industrial activities and a lack of proper waste management systems; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to conserve and rejuvenate Indian rivers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Rivers in the country are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage from cities/towns and industrial effluents in their respective catchments, poor operation and maintenance of sewage/ effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution and other non-point sources of pollution like agricultural runoff, open defecation, runoff from solid waste dump sites, etc. also contribute to pollution of rivers. Rapid urbanization, industrialization and climate change have compounded the problems.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in association with the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees in different States/Union Territories (UTs), has been monitoring water quality of rivers and other water bodies through a network of monitoring stations under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers has been carried out by CPCB from time to time. As per the last report published by CPCB in November 2022, 311 polluted river stretches (PRS) were identified on 279 rivers based on monitoring results in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution. State and river-wise details are available at:

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdf?file.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMvMTQ5OF8xNjcyOTg4MDQ1X211ZGhhcGhvdG8xMjk5NS5wZGY=>

(b) It is the primary responsibility of States/ Union Territories (UTs), local bodies Industrial units to ensure required treatment of sewage and industries effluent before discharging into rivers and other recipient water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein.

This Ministry has been supplementing efforts of the States/Union Territories (UTs) by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in the identified stretches of rivers in the country through the Central Sector Scheme of Namami Gange for river Ganga and its tributaries, and the Central Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation plan (NRCP) for other rivers.

NRCP has so far covered on 53 rivers in 98 towns spreading over 17 States in the country with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 8649.67 crore, and inter-alia, a sewage treatment capacity of 2910.50 million litres per day (MLD) has been created. Under the Namami Gange programme, a total of 467 projects, including 200 projects for sewage treatment of 6217.15 MLD and a sewer network of 5282.39 km, have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.39080.70 crore against which sewerage treatment capacity of 3241.55 MLD has been created so far.

In addition, sewerage infrastructure projects are also funded by Government of India under the programs of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Other steps taken by the Government to stop discharge of industrial effluents into water bodies, inter-alia include issuance of notification of specific discharge standards, revision of the criteria for categorization of industries and issuing directions to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control committees (PCCs) to adopt the same, regular and surprise inspections of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) for compliance verification against stipulated environmental norms, installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) for assessment of effluent quality and compliance status.

Besides, in compliance with the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Original Application No. 673/2018 regarding identified polluted river stretches in the country, States/UTs implement approved river rejuvenation action plans for restoration of the identified polluted stretches of rivers in their jurisdiction.
